

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO BOOKER T. JOHNSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 24, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Booker T. Johnson for his nearly three decades of public service to the citizens of New York City and his continued commitment to improving our community.

Booker is the son of Booker T. Johnson, Sr. and Piccola Tyler Johnson. He was born in the State of Virginia and received his education in South Carolina where he graduated from Scotts Brance High School in Summerton, S.C. In 1957, Booker relocated to New York. He married Roxie Carter Johnson in 1961, and they are proud parents of Booker T. Johnson, Jr. and Deron Johnson, and proud grandparents of Booker T. Johnson III.

Booker joined the New York City Police Department in 1968 receiving several commendations during his 28-year career. He retired in 1995. From 1975 to the present, he has been the owner and operator of B & D Florist on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn that serves many churches, business organizations, and the public.

In 1970, he joined Tuscan #58 F&A.M. (PH) Masonic Lodge becoming Master of the Lodge in 1980 and served as Grand Junior Warden in 1986. In 1978, he became a member of Fidelity Chapter #54 O.E.S., P.H.A. In South Carolina, he was a member of St. Phillip Church and joined Brown Memorial Baptist Church upon moving to Brooklyn, New York. Booker's motto is to, "treat everyone as you wish to be treated."

Mr. Speaker, Booker T. Johnson dedicated his professional life to protecting New York's and he continues to be committed to strengthening our community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER COX**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 24, 2004*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, had I been present on October 8, 2004, I would have voted "yes" on H. Amdt. 789, amending H.R. 10 to establish a "zero tolerance" policy towards the unlawful importation, possession, or transfer of shoulder fired guided missiles (MANPADS), atomic weapons, dirty bombs, and variola (smallpox) virus by making their unauthorized possession a federal crime carrying stiff mandatory penalties.

ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGIA'S "ROSE REVOLUTION"

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 24, 2004*

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker one year ago yesterday, November 23, 2003 the world witnessed an extraordinary political event involving the peaceful pursuit of democracy. In what has become known as the "Rose Revolution", the people of the Republic of Georgia, after several weeks of peaceful and bloodless protests following parliamentary elections which were determined to be fraudulent, forced a peaceful change in their government. On that day, opposition parliamentarians entered their Assembly, roses in hand, demanding that the will of the people, expressed by their recent vote, be honored. Given the strong support of the public the government of Eduard Shevardnadze collapsed.

Soon after, and under the effective management of interim President Nino Burdzhanadze, a free, fair and democratic presidential election was held. Mikhail Saakashvili, leader of the opposition protest, was overwhelmingly elected and sworn into office on January 24 of this year as President of the Republic of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Georgia is a small, but strategic country located in the Caucasus, between Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Central Asia. President Saakashvili is a young, energetic leader who has received educational training here in the U.S. and has repeatedly stressed the importance of strong ties with the United States. Since his election, he has committed his country to a strong effort against global terrorism and has deployed troops to Iraq. When President Saakashvili visited the United States Congress earlier this year he delivered a strong message of peace, stability, democracy, political reform, economic opportunity and closer cooperation with the West.

Recognizing the important developments taking place in Georgia, the Europe Subcommittee, which I Chair, passed H. Res. 483 in October, pledging the continued support of the United States for the continued development of democracy in Georgia.

Today, as we remember the events of November 23, 2003, we express our congratulations to the people and Government of Georgia and reaffirm our support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN SUDAN ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 19, 2004*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2781, the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004.

There can be no mistake that the situation in Darfur constitutes a massive humanitarian disaster. There is indisputable evidence from Members of Congress, international observers and non-governmental organizations that thousands of people have been killed, countless numbers of women and girls have been raped, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced. Lives remain in danger as water and food is scarce and the potential of a cholera outbreak is very real. It is imperative that the United States and the international community become more actively engaged in this issue—we should not allow the human suffering to continue a day longer.

The Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act is a significant measure designed to aid the suffering in Darfur while holding the perpetrators of these atrocities responsible for their actions. The Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act authorizes hundreds of millions of dollars for humanitarian development and refugee assistance. At the same time, this legislation blocks the U.S. assets of complicit senior officials of the Sudanese government and seeks to prevent the travel of Sudanese government officials to the U.S. until demonstrated human rights protections are in place.

The provisions in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act are necessary steps toward ending the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, but they are far from sufficient. The U.S. and the international community must maintain pressure on the Sudanese government to end the violence immediately and unconditionally.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress and the international community to end the genocide in Darfur and bring peace and stability to the Sudanese people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the bill before us today. For the third time in as many years, we are debating raising the debt limit because of irresponsible government policy. Today, this House will vote on raising the debt limit by

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